

Deer Quota Hunts

GENERAL INFORMATION

Any resident or nonresident hunter may apply for a deer quota hunt. Only the person(s) successfully drawn for quota hunts may hunt. Substitutions are not allowed.

Before you apply, it is best to review the Deer Quota Hunt Choices chart and Special Instructions for Quota Deer Hunts for hunt dates and other important details about particular hunts.

Any legal deer hunting equipment is permitted during a quota hunt unless otherwise stated in the Special Instructions section.

During hunts where firearms are permitted, hunters must comply with Kentucky's hunter orange clothing law.

Harvested deer must be recorded and reported for each hunt as noted in the Special Instructions section.

On hunts where an antler spread limit is in effect, hunters who take bucks under the 15-inch minimum outside spread limit will be ineligible to apply for a quota hunt the following season, and are subject to citation and having their deer confiscated.

Hunters who do not comply with quota hunt requirements are ineligible to apply for any quota hunt the following year (including deer, pheasant, wild quail, upland bird and waterfowl), and will lose any accumulated preference points.

Statewide licensing requirements apply to quota hunters. Hunters must use their statewide deer permit or an additional deer permit.

During all quota hunts, the West Kentucky WMA Open Gun Deer Hunt and the Grayson Lake WMA Open Youth Deer Hunt, only persons participating in these hunts will be allowed to enter the WMA, except to use established public roads or areas designated open by signs. Waterfowl hunting may also be open on some areas.

Hunters must get permission from private landowners before crossing private property to access any quota hunt area or to retrieve downed deer from private property. Quota hunters must respect the property rights of adjacent landowners and not trespass.

Scouting and set-up of portable tree stands is permitted prior to hunts any time these areas are open. Portable tree stands and climbing devices that do not injure trees may be used. Baiting is prohibited on state parks and WMAs. Kentucky Fish and Wildlife handles the application and random drawing selection only for the WMAs it owns or operates.

Drawings for quota hunts on areas not owned or operated by the department are conducted by the governing agencies of the lands. To apply for these hunts contact them directly. Telephone numbers are listed in the Public Land Hunting information on this website.

Prior to quota hunts, hunters can obtain information by calling 1-800-858-1549. Also, see Special Instructions for Quota Deer Hunts for the details of specific hunts.

Maps of WMAs, which show roads, parking areas, WMA offices and check stations, may be printed off this website. Click on Maps and Online Services, then Wildlife Management Areas/Public Hunting Areas.

Owners of private inholdings (private property completely surrounded by WMA lands) or their guests may travel within the owner's lands, but may not enter the WMA except as described above. Hunt area maps and quota hunt information will be available when hunters check in for quota hunts.

APPLICATION DIRECTIONS

The application period is September 1-30 only. Hunters may apply for any or all of these quota hunts at the same time via this website or by calling 1-877-598-2401.

Here's a checklist of the information needed when applying online or over the telephone:

- A Social Security number for each hunter in the party. The hunter who calls in the application will be responsible for paying \$3 per Social Security number entered. Application fees are nonrefundable.
- The area and date for which an individual or party of hunters is applying.
- One of the following payment methods: Visa and Mastercard (credit or debit), Discover, or e-check. Only one e-check will be accepted for group applications.
- After all of the information requested has been provided applicants will receive a confirmation number. Write this number down for later reference.

The results of the drawings will be posted in early October. Applicants may also call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern time) at 1-800-858-1549 at this time and provide either their

confirmation number or Social Security number to find out if they were drawn.

Applicants will be given the option to pick a first and second hunt choice, but may be drawn to participate in only one quota hunt. The non-refundable fee is \$3 per hunter to apply.

Each hunter who applies correctly, but isn't selected, will receive a preference point that increases the odds of being drawn next year (assuming the hunter applies the following year). Unselected hunters who do not apply the following year will lose all previously credited preference points. To prevent the loss of accumulated preference points, a hunter must apply every year.

If the hunter does not want to be drawn this year, select the "no hunt" option. The \$3 application fee is required even if the "no hunt" option is selected. This option helps hunters keep the preference points earned over a number of years. Applicants are selected based on individual preference points.

Up to five people can apply together. If any one of the group's Social Security numbers is drawn, the others in the group are automatically drawn, too.

Hunters drawn for a Taylorsville Lake WMA antlerless-only quota hunt will lose accumulated preference points. Quota hunters at Clay WMA and Taylorsville Lake WMA (Hunt # 1 and Mobility-Impaired Hunt # 1 only) will receive one preference point for each female deer harvested. Up to four preference points may be awarded, for use in the following year's quota hunt application. However, unless they select the "No

Hunt” option, hunters who do not apply the following year will lose all accumulated preference points.

CHECK-IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUOTA DEER HUNTERS

All quota deer hunters must check in at the designated check station prior to hunting, either on the day before the hunt, between noon and 8 p.m. local time, or on the day of the hunt, between 5:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time.

All quota deer hunters must check out at the designated check station if finished hunting, if the hunter’s bag limit is reached, or by 8 p.m. Eastern time on the final day of the hunt.

Harvested deer must be taken to the designated check station by 8 p.m. Eastern time the day the deer was harvested.

Hunters in the West Kentucky WMA quota and open gun hunts must check in daily.

Quota hunters in the Green River Lake State Park Archery/Crossbow-Only, and Marion County WMA & State Forest quota hunts are not required to check in or check out, but must telecheck harvested deer.

At check-in, quota deer hunters must show the following:

- Their Social Security number or hunt confirmation number.
- A valid Kentucky hunting license and deer permit, if license required.
- A hunter education card or temporary hunter education exemption permit if required.

If a quota hunter has already taken two deer with the statewide deer permit, he or she must have a valid additional deer permit in possession while hunting.

Persons checking in for a mobility- impaired hunt must present a department-issued WMA mobility impaired access permit, obtained prior to the hunt.

Landowner license exemptions do not apply when on a quota hunt. Hunters who fail to check out, when required, or who violate other hunt requirements will be blocked from applying for any quota hunt next year, and will lose any accumulated preference points.

Q: If a hunter is drawn for a second hunt choice, are preference points retained?

A: No. When a hunter is drawn for a quota hunt, all previously credited preference points are lost, even if drawn for the second choice hunt.

Watch the clock!

Check-in and check-out times for WMA quota hunts are:

- Day before hunt: Noon – 8 p.m. local time
- Hunt days: 5:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Eastern, 4:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Central, depending on WMA location. (Green River Lake WMA is considered in the Eastern Time Zone).

Follow the rules!

Hunters who do not comply with quota hunt requirements are ineligible to apply for any quota hunt the following year (including deer,

pheasant, quail, upland bird and waterfowl), and will lose any accumulated preference points.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR QUOTA DEER HUNTS

Unless otherwise stated below, hunters may take up to two (2) deer during a quota hunt. Antlered deer count towards the statewide limit. Drawn quota deer hunters should read this entire page to check restrictions on their quota hunt.

BAG LIMIT

- The limit for hunts on Beaver Creek, [Dewey Lake](#) (antler spread restriction), Fishtrap Lake and Mill Creek WMAs is one deer per hunter, which may be either sex.
- On WMAs in Zone 1 counties, hunters may harvest more than one deer per day during quota hunts. Hunters may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer, provided they have purchased Additional Deer Permits, on Ballard WMA, [Big Rivers WMA](#), Dr. James R. Rich WMA, John A. Kleber WMA, Pennyryle State Forest, Taylorsville Lake WMA, Tradewater WMA, Veterans Memorial WMA and West Kentucky WMA.
- Additionally, hunters participating in the Lake Barkley State Resort Park quota deer hunt (in Zone 1 Trigg County), may harvest more than one deer per day, and may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer, provided they have purchased Additional Deer Permits. On all other WMA quota hunts, except Beaver Creek, [Dewey Lake](#) (antler spread restriction), Fishtrap Lake and Mill Creek, hunters may take two (2) deer, only one of which may be antlered.

15-INCH ANTLER SPREAD RESTRICTIONS

Please read the deer regulations carefully.

A 15-inch antler spread restriction is in effect for some quota deer hunts. When judging antler size in the field, a good indication of a 15-inch spread is when the antlers extend beyond the width of the ears.

Hunters participating in the Ballard, [Dewey Lake](#), Green River Lake and Dennis-Gray, Green River Lake Mobility- Impaired, Green River Lake State Park, Paintsville Lake, Pennyryle State Forest & Tradewater and West Kentucky quota hunts, and the West Kentucky open gun hunt, can not take an antlered deer with an outside antler spread of less than 15 inches.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED QUOTA HUNTS

Persons with one of the following physical conditions are eligible to apply for a mobility-impaired quota hunt. At check in, drawn hunters must show a WMA Mobility-Impaired Access Permit, available in advance of the hunt date from the department.

- Has permanent paralysis of at least one (1) leg;
- Has at least one (1) foot amputated;
- Is permanently confined to a wheelchair or must use crutches or a walker as a means of support to pursue daily activities;
- Is restricted by a lung disease to such an extent that the person's forced respiratory expiratory volume for one (1) second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one (1) liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty (60) mm/Hg on room air at rest;

- Requires portable oxygen;
- Has a cardiac condition to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class 3 or Class 4 according to standards set by the American Heart Association; or
- Has a diagnosed disease which creates severe mobility impairment.

MOBILITY-IMPAIRED HUNTS

- The Green River Lake, Taylorsville Lake WMA and Zilpo-Twin Knobs Campgrounds Mobility – Impaired quota hunts are limited to persons who are mobility-impaired and meet the eligibility requirements as previously outlined. Drawn hunters may be accompanied by another person, but that person will not be permitted to hunt.
- Hunters participating in the Taylorsville Lake WMA mobility-impaired quota hunts may take an unlimited number of antlerless deer, provided they have purchased Additional Deer permits.
- Zilpo-Twin Knobs Campgrounds: Quota hunt is on Twin Knobs in odd years and Zilpo in even-numbered years. Check-in for the hunt is upon hunter arrival the day of the hunt from 5:30 a.m. until close of the legal hunting time. All hunters will be escorted to designated stand locations from which they will be required to hunt unless otherwise informed by hunt management personnel. Hunter stand locations will be assigned by random drawing at check-in. Vehicular access to the campgrounds for scouting prior to the hunt is not permitted.

GRAYSON LAKE WMA OPEN YOUTH HUNT

- The designated scouting day for the Grayson Lake WMA open youth hunt is the Friday preceding the hunt. On this day, vehicles will be permitted within the hunt area between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for youths (and their accompanying adults) registered for the hunt. Department personnel will be available at the check station 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. to answer questions and provide additional information. Scouting is permitted on other days prior to the hunt, but access is by walk-in or boat only.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA RESTRICTIONS

- On West Kentucky WMA, Tracts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are the only areas quota and open gun hunters are allowed to deer hunt. At check-in prior to each day's hunt, hunters must choose a hunting tract and will not be allowed to hunt outside that tract. Shotguns used with slugs or muzzleloaders are the only firearms that may be used to take deer anywhere on this area.

QUOTA DEER HUNTS ON STATE PARKS

- To spread hunting pressure over these parks, and to make getting harvested deer out of the woods easier, hunters are encouraged to use boats to access more remote portions of the hunt areas. State park boat ramps will be open for use during quota hunts.
- Areas within these parks that are off limits to hunting (such as lodges, campgrounds, employees' residences, maintenance compounds, ranger stations, water treatment plants, picnic areas and marinas/boat ramps) are marked with signs and/or flagging

tape or are indicated on hunt maps. Additionally, there is to be no hunting within 100 yards of a maintained road or building.

- Portable stands and tree climbers may be placed in trees no earlier than 24 hours before the start of the hunt, and must be removed within 24 hours of its conclusion. Tree stands must not be left unattended for more than 24 hours.